

Gas Prices

In May 2006 I asked the House Government Reform Committee Minority Staff to compile a report detailing the impact of high gas prices on the Hartford area. Their report found that gas prices in central Connecticut have risen 69 percent in the past five years, from \$1.82 per gallon in May 2001 to \$3.07 in May 2006. This increase will cost families in the Hartford area an average of \$1,640 more for fuel costs than five years ago. In total, rising energy prices will cost Connecticut families \$2.2 billion in 2006.

On August 24, 2005, I wrote to the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee urging them to immediately investigate whether major oil companies were taking advantage of Americans at the pump, and provide real relief from rising gas prices. In addition, I wrote to the Secretary of Energy asking what his department has done to address rising energy costs.

In October 2005, I joined with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY) in offering an amendment during consideration of the Gasoline for America's Security Act that would have eliminated the practice of "zone pricing," a restrictive practice that forces gas stations to purchase their supply from a single wholesaler rather than shopping around for the best price. Although the House Republican Leadership prevented the House from considering the measure, Larson and Slaughter introduced the amendment as stand alone legislation, the Eliminate Gas Price Discrimination Act (H.R. 3954). The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where it awaits consideration. We have reintroduced the bill in the 110th Congress (H.R. 2283).

I am an original cosponsor of Anti-Price Gouging Act (H.R. 3681) , which would make it illegal to drastically and baselessly raise the price of oil and other critical supplies during times of national disaster. In addition, I am a cosponsor of the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act (H.R. 1252) which would forbid the sale of crude oil, gasoline, natural gas or petroleum distillates at a price that is unconscionably excessive or indicates that the seller is taking unfair advantage of unusual market conditions, whether real or perceived, or the circumstances of an emergency to increase prices unreasonably.

Press Releases:

- 5/23/07 - Larson Votes to Crack Down on Price Gouging

- 5/16/07 - Reps. Larson and Slaughter
Introduce Legislation to Curb Rising Gas Prices
- 5/10/07 - Larson: Democrats Committed to
Real Solutions to Energy Crisis and Rising Gas Prices
- 1/18/07 - Larson Supports Ending Giveaways
to Oil Companies & Investing in Clean Energy
- 5/12/06 - Larson and DeLauro Blast
Republican Congress for Lack of Solutions to Rising Fuel Prices
- 5/4/06 - Larson Offers Motion to
Eliminate Oil Industry Tax Giveaways
- 4/27/06 - Larson Introduces Bill to
Repeal Tax Giveaways to Oil Industry
- 4/26/06 - Democratic Vice Chair Promotes
Package of Energy Price Legislation
- 4/25/06 - Larson Welcomes President to
Gas Price Debate
- 4/21/06 - Larson Calls for Action on
Soaring Fuel Prices
- 10/7/05 - Larson Rejects GOP Gas Act That Rewards Oil Companies,
Neglects Consumers
- 9/6/05 - Larson Applauds Hearing Into Spiraling Fuel Costs
- 8/22/05 - Larson
Demands Hearings on Soaring Gas Prices

Correspondence

- 8/24/05
– Letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee urging investigation of
gas prices and options to provide relief from spiking costs
- 8/24/05 – Letter to Secretary of
Energy Bodman asking what actions will be taken to address high energy
costs
- 9/7/05
– Letter to Attorney General Gonzales urging him to investigate gas price
gouging

Additional Information

The
Bush Administration's Energy Policy: A Five Year Review (House
Government Reform Committee Democrats)

Price

Increases in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: Authority to Limit Price
Gouging (Library of Congress)

- Short

Term Energy Outlook (Energy Information Administration)

- Gasoline

and Diesel Fuel Update (Energy Information Administration)

Primer

on Gasoline Costs (Energy Information Administration)

AAA

Daily Fuel Gauge Report